Unit in 1980 or so, costing about 20 lakh rupees;

(b) whether it is a fact that the instrument was kept packed for a few years for which Audit raised several objections;

(c) whether it is also a fact that lakhs of rupees have been spent to bring the equipment to working condition; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that XRF is still not in full operating condition;

(e) whether it is also a fact that a person was trained abroad to learn operating the instrument;

(f) whether the CSIR have fixed any responsibility on the persons concerned for non-installation and operation of such a costly equipment; and

(g) what action is proposed to be taken to utilise the machine early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (g) The Institute had placed an order in February, 1982 for supply of an XRF Spectrometer costing about Rs. 21.90 lakhs. The equipment reached Calcutta Airport in January, 1983 and could not be got cleared in the absence of detailed list of spares and accessories from the foreign supplier. The equipment could be cleared in June, 1983 after receipt of necessary documents from the supplier. The equipment with one of its parts filled with liquid nitrogen was supposed to be housed in an air-conditioned room after some period, which could not be done at the airport when it was awaiting custom clearance. In the process, certain parts thereof got damaged. This situation arose on account of laxity on the part of the Indian agent, who did not take adequate precautions for obtaining the documents from the foreign supplier for checking of the packing list promptly to get the equipment cleared from customs. Realising the lapses on their part, foreign supplier agreed to extend the warranty period to the extent of reconditioning of the damaged components etc. The equipment after obtaining necessary clearances from DGTD and RBI was again sent to the manufacturers in USA for check-up and re-conditioning. The manufacturers in USA subsequently apprehended damage to some more components also and requested for their delivery to them, which was also done after getting requisite clearances from RBI and DGTD. However, in the meantime, due to the change in the ownership of the original firm on which the Institute had placed order, the new firm disowned the responsibility for installation and commissioning of the equipment. It was by the intensive efforts of CFRI through the Indian Consulate General at San Francisco, USA that the equipment could be got back. The Consulate General advised to get the equipment installed indigenously because of the prohibitive cost of installation by other US firms and also in view of certain legal complexities. Eventually, a Bombay-based firm through open press tender was awarded the equipment's installation work. It was due to the aforesaid unfortunate circumstances that the equipment could not be got installed in time. A Scientist of the Institute was also trained abroad to learn the operation of the equipment. The Committee appointed by the Institute for fixing the responsibility of persons examined the various aspects of the case and keeping in view the circumstances which were beyond the control of the Institute, did not consider it fair to fix responsibility on any officers of the Institute. However, with the rigorous efforts, the Institute has now been putting in for getting the equipment installed, there is every likelyhood of its being installed in the very near future. A sum of about Rs. 4 lakhs has been spent to bring the equipment to working condition.

Central Grievances Committee of CSIR

4032. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Grievances Committee at CSIR (HQ) is functioning;

(b) if so, how many times the Committee has met during 1993-94; and

(c) how many cases have been settled in 1993-94 by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) As part of Grievance redressal mechanism, there is a Central Grievance Committee Functioning at CSIR Headquarters. This Committee met four times during the year 1993-94 and decided about 30 cases.

Remodelling of Country's Science Education

4033. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent scientists from all over the country have agreed that it was imperative to consider the remodelling of basic infrastructure provided for science education in the next century;

(b) if so, whether these views were presented in the 'over view' of science education in India's Seminar organised by INSA;